ments is reportedly made in the news item are refuted. The steps taken by Government lor withdrawal and rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations include (i) ensuring compliance of the implementation of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 and the provisions concerning children in other labour laws, (ii) sanctioning of 76 National Child Labour Projects to cover about 1.5 lakh children in the child labour endemic States and (iii) sanctioning of funds for carrying out surveys in 123 districts and for awareness generation activities in 133 districts. The political will of the present Government for elimination of child labour is already reflected by the fact that the 'Common Minimum Programme' of the Government seeks to eradicate child labour in all occupations and industries.

Turn-Key Execution of Sintering Plant at Bhilai

2765. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether for turn-key execution of Sintering Plant III at Bhilai, a consortium comprising TPE (Moscow), HSCL, a PSU and Mukund Ltd. India had quoted for a package which was found tcchno-commercially acceptable;

(b) whether after the final stages of price negotiants HSCL has been edged out of the consortium; if so, acton taken by his Ministry to support its own PSU;

(c) if not, the amount of order placed on HSCL in the total package ordered on TPE;

(d) whether for the same job, another package was quoted by a consortium comprising HEC, Ranchi, KAWASAKI, group of Japan and others;

(e) whether similarly during award of the job to the consortium, HEC has been left out; and

(f) if so, the reasons thereof along with the support SAIL is giving to another PSU on this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL & MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) The Sinter Plant-Ill (SP 3) project at Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) of the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has been divided into three turnkey packages as follows:

Pakage		Description
SP3-1	Sinter Machine	cGlobal
SP3-2	Ra Material Stor-age and Handling System	Global
SP3-3	Main Step Down Sub-Station (MSDS-IV)	Indigenous

M/s TPE had submitted tenders as-prime bidder against two global packages of Sinter Plant-Ill at BSP. M/s. HSCL was one of the Indian associated of M/s TPE in both the packages. Both the tenders of TPE were found techno-com-mcrcially acceptable by SAIL. However, M/s. TPE was the lowest tenderer for only one package namely, Ram Material Storage and Handling System, for which the contract has been awarded to TPE.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. During price negotiations M/s. TPE had informed SAIL in writing that their Indian associate (HSCL and others) did not agree to reduce the price as required by them, and also that the consortium agreement with the associates had ceased to exist. Accordingly, since M/s. TPE had excluded HSCL as their associate, the amount of order on HSCL in the total package ordered on M/s. TPE is nil. However, HSCL is still associated as a sub-contractor for the fabrication, supply and erection of technological structures and erection of building structures, and Letters of Intent valued at Rs". 12.04 crores have been placed by the principal contractors on HSCL.

(d) to (f) A Consortium comprising of M/s. Mitsui, Japan as principal contractor and Kawasaki/Hitachi Zosen of Japan and M/s. Simplex Engineering & Foundry Works Ltd. as the associates had quoted for only one package i.e. Sinter Machine package. Subsequently, during the techno-commercial discussions, M/s. Mitsui informed SAIL that HEC and Siemens India will be their other Indian associates for the package. However, before signing of the contract, the principal contractor i.e., M/s. Mitsui did not include HEC as an associate and informed SAIL/BSP that HEC would not be a signatory to the contract. The selection of associates by the prime bidder/principal contractor is left to the judgement of the prime bidder/principal contractor, subject to the acceptance of the same by SAIL. Since the prime bidder/principal contractor is responsible for the perform--ance guarantees and timely completion, it is therefore the prerogative of the prime bidder/Principal contractor to choose suitable associates.

Scheme to Impart Training to Labourers by Directorate of Employment and Training

2766. SHRI LACHHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Directorate of Employment & Training has formulated any scheme to impart the training to the labourers in the training institutions;

(b) if so, the number of labourers trained in these institutions during the last six months;

(c) whether substantial stipend is given during'the training period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The Directorate General of Employment & Training (DGE&T) has been selected as one of the nodal agencies for implementing the scheme for retraining of rationalised industrial workers under the National Renewal Fund.

(b) About 5100 ratiolanised workers have been retrained in training institutions under the purview of DGE&T during the last six months.

(d) and (d) Stipend @ Rs. *W*- per day is paid to the trainees for the duration of the training courses.

Foreign Capital in SSI

2767. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he told the industrialists on June, 25, 1996 that Government would welcome foreign capital even in small scale industry and consumer goods industry;

(b) whether this is the policy of Government; and

(c) whether it does not go counter to the Government's Common Minimum Programme?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The Industry Minister while addressing a Seminar organised by FICCI on 25.6.96, did not make any policy statement. However, while addressing the gathering, the Industry, Minister had stated that massive capital investment and modern technology would be required for higher growth and the entire requirement of capital investment cannot be met from the domestic savings alone. The foreign direct investment is also needed to bridge the gap between the domestic savings and the capital requirement.

No specific mention was made to the effect that foreign capital would be welcome in the small scale industry and consumer goods industry. He simply stated *inter-alia* that the Government was seized of some of the issues and foreign investment proposals would be examined from time to time based on a set of criteria. The statements made by the Minister were in consonance with the